



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

School Committee Minutes 06-12-2001

ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2001
7:30 PM

Present: **Joani LaMachia, Chair** **Suzanne Owayda**
 David McKenna, Vice Chair **Paul Schlichtman**
 Denis Sullivan, Secretary **Martin Thrope**
 Barbara Goodman

Superintendent **Kathleen Donovan**
Asst. Superintendent **Joanne Gurry**
Chief Financial Officer **David Kale**
Director of Special Education **Marilyn Bisbicos**

Call to order: 8:00 PM

Ms. LaMachia asked for a moment of silence for Bernardine Buzzell, secretary at APS for 42 years.

Ms. LaMachia also took the opportunity to thank fellow committee members for their work and support during her transition as chair.

Update on Defibrillators

Supt. Donovan stated that she invited nursing supervisor, Pat Tarantino and our legal counsel attorney, Alan Miller to address the issue of defibrillators. Mrs. Tarantino reported that in speaking with the Dept. of Public Health, defibrillator use in public schools is very limited. A discussion at the State level on policy & procedure is ongoing. Issues being discussed include liability, responsibility, storage, and which staff would be trained. Mrs. Tarantino also noted that the American Academy of Pediatrics does not yet recommend the use of defibrillators on children. According to Fire Chief Maimone every piece of fire or rescue apparatus in Arlington is equipped with defibrillators and with trained staff. The Fire Chief noted that the average response time in Arlington is 3 minutes. At a cost of \$3500.00 per unit Mrs. Tarantino believed it was too expensive and she would like to see what develops at the State level.

Attorney Alan Miller explained that having defibrillators on school property would set up an expectation that treatment and trained staff are on hand. Mr. Miller pointed out that with a response time of 3 minutes why have amateurs do something that professionals are trained to do. He also suggested that time could be lost in deciding to use the defibrillator or in calling for emergency help.

Ms. Goodman furnished information from the American Heart Association and pediatricians who suggest that lay use is appropriate, the device is simple, and training is available. However the incidence is so rare and other issues are more important such as training staff in the use of epi-pens and CPR training that any available funds would be better spent in those areas.

Ms. LaMachia will write to the AYA thanking them for their offer but that the committee does not see the need for them at this time.

Mrs. Tarantino will let us know if anything changes at the State level.

Public Participation

Kate Cubeta, Phyllis Mahoney, Judi Paradis, and Harvey Yee, members of the Peirce community addressed the Committee. They thanked the School Committee and the Administration for their continued support to fund the new Peirce School. They also reaffirmed their commitment and support in finishing all seven schools.

Liane Cronin requested that the Committee review the packet of materials distributed at the last meeting relative to her settlement with APS in December 1999. She also requested that the issue be addressed in a timely manner.

Secretary's Report

Mr. Sullivan reviewed correspondence. Mrs. Donovan responded to correspondence relative to the painting the Thompson School; the job has to be rebid since the previous low bidder went out of business. A letter from Dallin Principal Bob Lynch and the Dallin School Safety Committee will be referred to the Arlington Transportation Advisory Committee.

Ms. Goodman requested that the motion made at the May 1st meeting relative to Peirce School be reviewed for accuracy.

On a motion by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Thrope
Voted to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 8, 2001. Unanimous

On a motion by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Thrope
Voted to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 22, 2001. Unanimous

Public Vote

Mr. Sullivan noted that although the Superintendent's salary was voted in open session at the conclusion of the last executive session, it is not the Committees practice to take late night votes.

On a motion by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Mr. McKenna

Voted to reaffirm the vote of the school committee and accept the contract negotiated between Superintendent Donovan and Chairman LaMachia:

" A salary increase of 10% in the amount of \$10,816.00 and \$1000.00 towards life insurance effective July 1, 2000. (for a salary amount of \$118,976.00)

" A salary increase of \$10,816.00 and \$1000.00 towards life insurance effective July 1, 2001. (for a salary amount of \$129,792.00)

" An extension of her contract until 2004.

Roll Call: 6 yes -1 no; Mr. Thrope stated with his no vote that he could not justify an increase of that magnitude.

Bus Routes/Peirce School

Supt. Donovan reviewed the proposed bus routes for Peirce School. The routes have been presented to parents and trial runs will be conducted before the start of school. Mr. McKenna stated that the students also participate in safety drills on the bus along with rules on bus safety.

DOE Waiver

Mrs. Donovan informed the Committee that notification has been received granting APS a 1.2 million dollar waiver in rebuilding Peirce School.

Goals Update/Workshop

Ms. LaMachia stated that school councils have met and held their elections. She suggested a workshop for the School Committee sometime in August to review what we've done, to look at what is working and to see what our priorities will be. August 27th was agreed upon with the details to be communicated at a later date.

Dr. Gurry held a workshop with administrators to begin contributions to the district goal setting process. The group worked on three categories: what we do well, what needs improvement and new initiatives. Dr. Gurry stated the topics would be worked on over the summer.

Subcommittee Report

Mr. Thrope reported that the subcommittee has two meetings next week and hopes to finish the manual at that time. The expectation is that the updated policy manual will be ready by the second meeting in September.

Update on AHS Principal

Supt. Donovan stated that she would have information next Tuesday regarding the AHS principal.

PTBC Update

Mr. Thrope reported that the Hardy School is moving towards completion and that they are in the process of pricing out necessary repairs.

Mr. Thrope asked for direction from the committee since as a member of the school committee and the PTBC his vote can affect the school operating budget. He would like support from the School Committee. Ms. LaMachia stated that as the school committee representative it is understood that he has the support of the committee.

On a motion by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Ms. Owayda

Voted to authorize Mr. Thrope as a member of the PTBC to use his discretion in casting votes on behalf of the Arlington School Committee. 5 yes, 1 no (Ms. Goodman) 1 abstention (Mr. Thrope) Motion passes.

Ms. Goodman noted that she is uncomfortable with the motion since we receive no updates on finances from the PTBC. Mrs. Donovan stated that she would include financial updates/materials in their packets.

End of the Year Report

The Superintendent highlighted the accomplishments achieved in her end of the year report.

" Receiving \$3 million dollars for METCO

" Increased role of school councils

" Curriculum guide for grades 6-8

" Opening of Bishop School

" Work on redistricting

" Hiring a new Hardy School principal, a human resource officer and a chief financial officer

" Receiving \$2.5 million dollars in grant money

" Vanguard Award for the Thompson School

" Reduced class size

" Securing \$10 million dollars for the Peirce Field

" \$50,000 secured for a new scoreboard

“ Outstanding MCAS scores

On a motion by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Mr. McKenna

Voted to give the administration spending authority as needed during the summer months. Unanimous.

New Business

“ **Approval of field trips.**

The Superintendent requested approval of two Ottoson field trips; York, Maine and Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded by Mr. Sullivan

Voted the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Ottoson Middle School field trips. Unanimous

The Committee requested that a standardized form that includes a realistic deadline and a section for school committee approval be created and distributed to administration, department heads and staff for the 2001 school year.

“ The Supt. reported that AHS graduation and the all night party went well

“ The October 9th meeting will be rescheduled for a another night

“ Kay will convene an infrastructure meeting over the summer

Ms LaMachia reminded members to turn in their evaluations of the Superintendent.

Mr. Schlichtman asked members if they would be interested in supporting the urban council's effort in formalizing with MASC in creating a new division. Mr. Sullivan requested written background material to review.

On a motion by Mr. McKenna and seconded by Mr. Sullivan

Voted to enter executive session for the purpose of a personnel and a legal issue, with no further business to be conducted upon return to open session. Roll Call: Unanimous

Executive Session 10:30 – 11:00 PM

On a motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded by Mr. Sullivan

Voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:00 PM